



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,474	02/21/2001	Masatoshi Shiouchi	1359.1041	6203
21171	7590	02/16/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 02/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

09/788,474

Applicant(s)

SHIOUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

Art Unit

2154

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 31 January 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See continuation sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

**JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**

Continuation Sheet:

Applicant's argument:

"Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Hodjat, as Hodjat fails to disclose, "a role-assignment part having the policy storing part, for providing a role in accordance with the attributes of the agent based on the policy." See Claim 1 of the Present Invention, emphasis added."

"Therefore, Gupta does not teach or suggest a role assignment pad for providing a role in accordance with the attributes of an agent based on a policy, as identified by the language of independent claim 1, for example."

Examiner's response:

Hodjat teaches in " col. 7, lines 34-61, "The interpreter unit 320 refers to an interpretation policy unit 322 to determine whether the input message is within the domain of responsibility of the agent 310. The interpretation policy unit 322 can be, for example, a table containing various words or tokens in the message that the agent 310 is assigned to recognize. This table also indicates what the agent 310 should do in response to a message containing a token that the agent has recognized. Preferably, but not essentially, some predetermined set of policies is reprogrammed into the interpretation policy unit 322 for each agent by the designer of the system, in order to ensure that the system will be functional from the beginning. In addition, for agents which are adaptive, the interpretation policy unit also receives interpretation policies from the rewards unit 314 via a learning module 324. At the time of the system reset, the information in the interpretation policy unit 322 reverts back to the basic hard-coded

Art Unit: 2154

start-up information. The interpretation policy stored in unit 322 therefore includes a preset knowledge base, as well as a learned knowledge base. In a system intended for use with different users, several learned knowledge bases are acquired on a per-user basis. The learning module 324 is responsible for contradiction resolution in knowledge base entries with regard to feedback received on the processing of previous requests. Previous requests, and their ultimate disposition within the agent 310, are also stored in a temporary request storage unit 326 in anticipation of their feedback."

Hodjat further teaches in col. 10, lines 10-44," If desired in a particular embodiment, the agents in an agent network can be grouped into agent communities. A "community" contains one or more agents, all having the same domain of responsibility. In a degenerate case, an agent by itself also constitutes a community of only the one agent. Various embodiments can employ different conventions for communicating between communities of agents. For example, in one embodiment, a query is performed only of an entire community of agents, not of any single agent within the community. Responses may come from the individual agents in the community or, in an embodiment, only from the community as a whole. Thus, as used herein, an agent which is part of a community of agents can be queried, in an appropriate embodiment, by querying the community of which it is part. That is, the querying of a group of agents is considered herein to include the querying of one or more agents within the group. Note that other types of agent groupings are possible in a given embodiment, other than communities. Note also that in a given embodiment, not all

agents having the same domain of responsibility need to be within the same community."

Further Hodjat teaches in col. 13, line 60 through col. 14, line 1, "The various agents in the agent-oriented interpretation unit 212 receive and reply to messages using a conventional declarative knowledge representation language known as KIF (Knowledge Interchange Format), a conventional communication language KQML (Knowledge Query and Manipulation Language) and a library of formal ontologies defining the vocabulary of various domains."

And as previously stated, the reference SATO (US 2001/0039562 A1) wherein it teaches at page 5, para. [0082]-[0085], "The ACL is an inter-agent communications language in which messages communicated between agents are regulated, and comprises a knowledge representation language KIF (knowledge interchange format) for representing the knowledge such as the contents of information; a knowledge query and manipulation language KQML for regulating the verbal portion, referred to as a performative, of a transaction in an inter-agent communications; and an ontology indicating the type of word system used in an agent. [0083] When an agent tries to establish communications using the ACL, it is necessary to abstract the actual information as the knowledge (virtual knowledge base VKB) of an agent. According to the embodiment shown in FIG. 5, the information to be processed is the product/service database 100. Therefore, the information in the product/service database 100 is abstracted into the VKB of the database agent 200. [0084] The VKB can be accessed by retrieving a part of the knowledge described by the VKB, and specifying an operation

Art Unit: 2154

(fetching, deleting, rewriting, etc.) to be performed on the retrieved knowledge. When the VKB is accessed in the ACL, the knowledge in the VKB to be processed in relation to the KIF is retrieved, and a corresponding operation is specified by the performative of the KQML. [0085] The relation of the KIF can be the relation between a specific field of a record of the VKB and its value, the arithmetic relation between numeric values, the relation defining a logical combination of relations, the relation for obtaining a secondary result by applying acceptable conditions, etc.”

Thus Hodjat clearly teaches “a role-assignment part having the policy storing part, for providing a role in accordance with the attributes of the agent based on the policy.”, and “defining a virtual communication channel for generating a virtual community among a selected number of the agents based on a role assigned to the agents and policy information including rules representing a relationship between attributes of the agents” and “connecting the selected number of agents to each other and exchanging information between the agents in the virtual community using the defined virtual communication channel.”, and “assigning each of the agents a role in accordance with a corresponding attribute of each agent and based on policy information including rules representing a relationship between the corresponding attribute of each agent and the role assigned in accordance with the attribute, the policy being used to define a virtual communication channel.”